

October 26, 2020 Narrative

Board of Selectman, Chair, Karen Canfield said about half of the town's registered voters have received mail-in ballots for the November 3rd election. Those who have not yet returned their ballots have the option of dropping them off at the ballot box outside Town Hall or walking them into the Town Clerk's office. If a voter chooses to return their ballot on Election Day, the ballot must be brought to Town Hall not the polls. For more information, go to the Town Clerk's tab on the town website [Scituatema.gov]

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said the ballot box outside Town Hall is secure. It is under constant video surveillance and the police have a regular routine of keeping an eye on it.

Anyone with questions can call the Town Clerk's Office at 781-545-8743.

Ms. Canfield requested that residents on sewer do not put wipes into the system as they clog the pumps. She

also urged residents to support local businesses as much as possible.

Mr. Boudreau reported that, since last week, there have been six new COVID cases in Scituate in four separate households. The town's 14-day Covid positivity rate is 1.8 percent up from 1.3 percent. The town infection rate is now "red" on the state color map which is the highest level. That means there are more than 8 cases per 100,000 population.

If Scituate remains "red" for 3 consecutive weeks the town will roll back from Phase 3 Step 2 to Phase 3 Step 1. That would affect some recently opened business and the limit on gatherings. All hockey and figure skating has ended for the next two weeks.

Mr. Boudreau asked residents to be aware of Covid fatigue and not get complacent about wearing masks, washing hands and practicing social distancing. He noted the town has gone from "yellow" to "red" fairly quickly. He asked residents to buckle down so parts of the economy don't have to be shut down again.

Halloween is still going forward but trick 'er treating should end by 8 p.m. No house parties or indoor

activities are allowed. Covid masks are required in addition to the costume.

The town website [Scituatema.gov] has a link to CDC Halloween guidelines. Recommended is a self-serve candy station outside the house. People should not hand out candy individually to trick 'er treaters.

The Southeastern Massachusetts drought is now "severe" down from "extreme." There was 1/10 of an inch of rain recorded at the water treatment plant last week. Usage is at 505,000 gallons per day, down from 510,000 the previous week. Water bills are increasing an average of 11 percent (with a new tier 4 for high-usage water customers) and the sewer rate will be up 6 percent, both due to the cost of capital upgrades.

The water department will be restarting the flushing program depending on the water supply and weather conditions.

The police will conduct training at the old Gates School on Thursday and Monday. All Covid protocols will be followed.

The Cedar Point sewer construction project is ongoing.

The Cole Parkway Marina piling project has started.

The sewer department is conducting leak and illegal connection detection in Sand Hills, the Egypt Beach and Harbor areas. It involves blowing white smoke into the sewer lines in the street and seeing where the smoke leaks out. Area residents should not see smoke in their house unless there is an issue with their plumbing. If there is smoke, they should open the windows and notify crews in the street. Questions, call the Sewer Department at 781-545-8736.